

1. (Thrice Amended) A modular microchannel apparatus for analysis of an analyte, comprising:

(a) a separation unit having a microchannel, in which the analyte can be driven to pass through the microchannel due to the molecular characteristics thereof and wherein the time for the analyte to pass through the microchannel is indicative of the molecular characteristics of the analyte; and

(b) a reservoir unit having one or more reservoirs having dimensions compatible with the separation unit operatively and modularly coupled in fixed alignment to the separation unit to supply liquid reagents and analyte thereto upon application of a driving force resulting from simultaneous operative and modular coupling, the reservoirs having prepackaged liquid reagents therein before the reservoir unit is coupled with the separation unit.

25. (Thrice Amended) A kit for making a microchannel apparatus for analysis of an analyte, comprising:

(a) a separation unit having a microchannel, in which the analyte can be driven to pass through the microchannel due to the molecular characteristics thereof and wherein the time for the analyte to pass through the microchannel is indicative of the molecular characteristics of the analyte; and

(b) a reservoir unit having one or more reservoirs having dimensions compatible with the separation unit for coupling operatively and modularly to the separation unit in fixed alignment to supply liquid reagents and analyte thereto upon application of a driving force resulting from simultaneous operative and modular coupling, the reservoirs having prepackaged liquid reagents therein.

REMARKS

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

As a result of a previous restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121, claims 1-12 and 25-26 are pending. In the Office Action under reply, it appears that the Examiner has withdrawn